Clinical trials of Ayurvedic Drugs

1931. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any clinical trials are conducted before a new Ayurvedic Drug is introduced in the market;

(b) if so, what are the procedure thereof; and

(c) if the reply to (a) above be in the negative, whether Government propose to introduce such a methodology to inspire confidence amongst users ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Clinical trials are not considered necessary and are not provided in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act because the safety and efficacy of ayurvedic medicines are time tested and documented in authentic ayurvedic books which are specified in the 1st Schedule of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. Accordingly, the clinical trials of ayurvedic drugs are not a statutory requirement under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

However, although there are no "new" drugs in Ayurvedic as are available in modern systems of medicine, there are some patent and proprietory drugs which are prepared from various combinations of drugs mentioned in authentic ayurvedic books. There is a proposal to subject these drugs for clinicals trials and suitable instructions have been issued to the State Drug Licensing authorities in November, 1990.

Ayurvedic Products

SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Ayurvedic products in the Indian Market and their manufacturers, State-wise; and

(b) the turnover of Ayurvedic drug industry during the last three year, yearwise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

List of Ayurvedic products

1933. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have compiled a list of Ayurvedic products containing more than 12 per cent alcohol, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) what was the turnover of Ayurvedic products which contain more than 12 per cent alcohol, company-wise and year-wise, during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Ayurveda and Ayurvedic medicines

1934. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the graduates from allopathic Medical Colleges are practising Ayurveda and are freely prescribing ayurvedic medicines for which they are not trained;

(b) if so, what corrective steps Government have taken or propose to take in the matter;

(c) whether there have been any case of cancellation of degrees for this unauthorised work; and

(d) if so, what are the details, thereof, State-wise during the last 5 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (d) Under the provisions of the

Indian Medical Council Act, 1956; Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 and Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973, only a person possessing the recognised basic medical qualification in the respective system of medicine, viz., Allopathy, Indian System of Medicine, Homoeopahty, and who is enrolled on the State Central Reigster shall practise medicine in the system of medicine in which he possesses the basic medical qualification.

Penal provisions already exist in the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956; in the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970; and in the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973 to the effect that no person other than a medical practitioner enrolled on the State Medical Register shall practise medicine in any State and any person contraventing this provision shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine which may extend to Rs. 1000 or both.

Medical Council of India have informed that no such case has come to their notice. State Governments have also not reported any such case.

Surveillance of AIDS

1935. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 50 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th November, 1991 and state what are the steps Government have taken for surveillance of AIDS and the utilisation of Television for the purpose during the last six months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): The Government of India have formulated a National AIDS Control Programme with the major components—

(i) Surveillance.

(ii) Screening of Blood & Blood products.

(iii) Creating awareness among the public.

(iv) Prevention of sexual transmission through information, Education among groups practising high risk behaviour.

(v) Previontion of transmission through intravenous drug use.

(vi) Training of medical/para medical personnel in management of infected persons.

To carry out the Sero Surevillance activities of HIV Infection in the country, 62 Surveillance Centres in different Medical Colleges have been established by the Government.

As on 31-10-91 11,36,489 perseus practising high risk behaviours, namely hetero-sexually promiscuous, I.V. drug users, Blood donors, anti-natal mothers have been screened, out of which 6,196 were found sero-positive. In addition, nearly 66 Zonal Blood Testing Centres are functioning in different parts of the country to screen the blood before transfusion.

Thirteen institutions have been identified by the Government for undertaking sential surveillance. A protocol for sentinel surveillance has already been formulated by the experts. The Dte. G.H.S. is conducting periodic review of the reports of the sentinel surveillance being received by them.

Mass media like Television is also being utilised from time to time. Recently, a panel discussion was conducted to high light the activities of AIDS Control Programme in Doordarshan.

AIDS education to students

1936. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to educate university students and staff members on AIDS prevention under the